

even guarantee a moratorium on evictions. It merely instructs Federal agencies to “review” or “consider” one and does nothing to help renters actually afford the rent.

Here in Congress, the Senate Republican majority delayed for 4 long months, failed to come up with a proposal that had the support of their own caucus, and then gave up and left it for someone else to figure it out. That is why MCCONNELL is not in the room. Facing the greatest domestic crisis in the 21st century, where Americans are hurting healthwise and economically, the Senate Republican majority ran down the clock, tossed up an air ball, and then subbed themselves out of the game.

Even now, as Leader MCCONNELL claims that Democrats are blocking relief, there are 20 Members of the Republican caucus, according to their own leader, who will not vote for anything—no more relief. A group of Republican Senators came to the floor last week to warn America about the national debt, not the health crisis, not the economic crisis, not the looming housing crisis but the national debt. It is something that concerned those same Members very little when adding nearly \$2 trillion to the debt in order to give big corporations a giant tax cut in 2017.

Listen to this one: The Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. JOHNSON, said yesterday:

From my standpoint, the breakdown in talks is very good news. I hope the talks remain broke down.

Let me repeat that. Senator JOHNSON said:

From my standpoint—

Reflecting the views of many Republican Senators—

the breakdown in talks is very good news. I hope the talks remain broke down.

Why did he say that? Because he doesn't want to spend one more nickel. Despite the huge health crisis, the huge economic crisis, people losing their jobs, small businesses closing, we shouldn't spend a nickel. This is not both sides. This is one side only.

When President Trump called COVID-19 a hoax and told the country to go take bleach and other quack medicines, some of my friends here made disappointed noises. But when the President said the virus would just disappear, it seems the Republican Senate bought it.

After we came together to pass the CARES Act, Republican Senators pushed all their chips to the middle to bet with President Trump that the virus was going to miraculously disappear. The Republican leader said: I am going to put the Senate on “pause” and see what happens. Last week, he actually defended that position, saying that his delay “allowed us to learn the coronavirus didn't mysteriously disappear.” Millions more people out of work, hundreds of thousands of small businesses closing, many more people

getting COVID and some more people dying, and, now, after all that, the Republican leader says his delay “allowed us to learn the coronavirus didn't mysteriously disappear.”

So while President Trump and his aides have certainly been an impediment—an awful impediment to an agreement, the Republican Senate is equally culpable, and the American people know it. They know that Democrats have their back, healthwise and economically. Republicans, so many of them, are saying: Don't do a thing. Don't do a thing. They are glad the negotiations have broken down. We are not.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, one final matter, millions of Americans rely on the U.S. Postal Service to deliver their mail reliably and on time. For decades, the hard-working people of the Postal Service have been doing just that. During this pandemic, USPS has been providing these critical services day in and day out, up until the new Postmaster General, Mr. DeJoy, a top Republican donor and Trump ally with no experience in the Postal Service, was installed at the helm.

Administering a national election is difficult in normal times. In the time of COVID, it will undoubtedly be an even greater challenge. We need to institute policies and devote resources to make sure every American can both safely and confidently vote in person and by mail. By the way, even just as important, we need to make sure Americans get their medicines on time, that the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions who are staying in their homes and not going out are able to get their necessities by mail. Your pills are a week late—I know what that is like. It has happened to me. Fortunately, I don't have medicines that my life depends on. It causes you huge anxiety about your health. This Postmaster is cutting overtime, cutting employees, when, at a time of COVID, we need more help, not less. But elections should certainly concern Americans as well.

The current issues of the post office should alarm every American. The new Postmaster General has instituted policies that have contributed to inexcusable delays in mail delivery. But now, topping the cake, the Postal Service has informed some States that they may need to pay a first-class rate to deliver ballots rather than the normal rate, nearly tripling the cost. At a time when people will have to vote by mail in record numbers because they can't or will not go vote in person, the Postmaster General is saying we should triple the rate of costs to vote by mail? What a despicable derogation of democracy.

What is his rationale? It is a small amount of money. Ballots are a small percentage of the mail that is delivered. It is to discourage people from

voting. He ought to be ashamed of himself to even consider this, tripling—tripling what it costs to vote by mail at a time when more people will vote by mail than ever before. If anyone had any thought that this Postmaster General was on the level, it is now dispensed.

To triple the cost of voting by mail would be an outrageous and insidious policy that would make it even harder and more expensive for States, already struggling with depleted budgets from COVID-19, to conduct our elections safely. Democrats will fight this policy with every tool at our disposal. If our Republican colleagues care about a free and fair election this November, they should as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I so appreciate the comments of the minority leader.

HOUSING

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, oftentimes, when I am home and I am talking to constituents in Nevada, they look at Washington as a bubble. They don't really think that things happen here unless they see it on the news or they have no trust in us really coming together to work on behalf of our constituents.

I think it is time we focus on what needs to be done in the best interest of our country than focusing on political gain or gamesmanship.

The reason why I say that is, I don't know about the President pro tempore, but I know every single Senator comes from a State, and they care about their constituents. They get emails from their constituents and letters from their constituents. When we go home, we claim to be in a recess, but it is not really a recess. We are home working. We are talking to our constituents and businesses and the individuals who are there. And if we are really listening to our constituents, particularly at a time like now, when this pandemic has created the worst health crisis we have seen not just in this country but around the world and has contributed to an economic crisis, then we are hearing from our constituents that they are struggling right now.

The reason they are struggling is because we have asked them to stay at home and shelter in place to stem the spread of this virus. We have said: Listen, we don't have a vaccine. We are working on it, but we don't have it right away. We need to ramp up our tests so we can make sure you can get it, and quickly, to determine whether you have this virus or the antibodies so we can then quarantine you and shelter you. But until we even get to that point, we have asked everybody to stay home. And they have done it.

I know in my State of Nevada, we have the highest unemployment rate in this country right now—25 percent.

Businesses have shuttered. People have stayed home to help us stem the spread of this virus. What we told them months ago is that, if you do this, we will be there. Our Federal Government will be there to work with you. We will help you. We will make sure you have money in your pocket so you can afford healthcare, so you can pay your bills, so you can pay your rent, you can pay for your food, so you do not have to have any economic insecurity. We made that commitment to them. We promised them.

I have to say that we still have to follow that obligation. They are doing their part, so why aren't we doing ours?

At the end of the day, the President pro tempore and I both know, and all of our colleagues know, that there is more economic insecurity in this country right now than we have ever seen before because of this pandemic: food insecurity, housing insecurity, job insecurity, education insecurity. There is a homework gap. We know it. It is happening. So now it is time for us to stop the posturing, stop the political gamesmanship and really do what we committed when we swore an oath to this office when we were sworn in, that we were going to do right by people across this country, looking out for their interests—not our interests but the best interests of this country.

So I come to the floor today to really ask my colleagues: Let's try and do what is right for the best interests of this country, now more than ever.

I know you get them. I get letters. I have letters from constituents right now—I can't tell you—and I have been inundated with them.

A constituent from Nevada wrote:

I urge you to extend the federal eviction moratorium and include at least \$100 billion in funding for emergency rental assistance in the next . . . relief [package]. [This] assistance will enable households, including those who have lost jobs or who already were struggling to pay rent before the pandemic, to remain stably housed and avoid the devastating and long-lasting harms of eviction.

That is from a constituent. I didn't write that. They sent it to my office. In this letter, this constituent from Nevada goes on to say:

It is important to be kind and compassionate. Especially during this time. We have the opportunity to learn and to do better always. No one should be forced out of their home during a global pandemic.

Those are similar to other letters I receive. I know you receive them. I know our colleagues receive them. That is why, today, it is important for us to focus on so much that is happening, including that economic security. Right now I want to focus on one piece of it that we need to address that should be part of a global piece, which is this idea that, right now, millions of Americans are concerned about being evicted from their homes.

In the middle of a pandemic, when people need a safe place to call home, they are concerned that they don't have the money to pay their rent be-

cause we have asked them to stay home.

I have said this before on the floor of the Senate. I will say it again. In the middle of a pandemic, housing is healthcare. Security in your own home is healthcare. Yet we have millions of people across the country on the brink of eviction.

In mid-July, a quarter of adults reported that they were housing insecure. That is one in four. In more than half of the States in America, eviction bans have expired. That means, across the Nation, more and more families will have to pack up everything that they can carry in the space of hours.

There could be 40 million evictions nationwide by the end of the year, and what we have seen amongst the data that comes in to all of our offices is that families of color are likely to be the hardest hit. In my home State of Nevada, experts believe that nearly half a million people are at risk of eviction—perhaps as many as 300,000 of them in Nevada by September. Among renters, up to 47 percent face that risk.

Staving off Nevada evictions could cost Nevada \$850 billion in rental assistance over the next year. That is just one State. But do you know what? The States, the local governments, everyone has been impacted by this pandemic, and they are rightly looking to Congress to address it. They are desperate for us to pass meaningful legislation to get them money to pay their bills, to enact protections that let them stay in their homes and apartments.

We need to help them now. We can't turn our backs. We cannot turn our backs on Americans now, more than ever. They need our help. And we need the administration, we need leadership—Republican leadership—coming to the negotiating table to get real relief passed, not hollow political gestures.

We need a package that will include housing and rental assistance, prevent an epidemic of homelessness, and stabilize the housing markets because, if we don't, the consequences are going to haunt families and our economy for years.

Now, I know this. Take it from me. In Nevada, we saw 200,000 families lose their homes because of the 2008 housing crisis. That foreclosure crisis hit Nevada so hard, and it has been a long, long road back for so many Nevadans.

I am determined not to ever see that happen again and to bring relief. If I am in a position—as we all are here in Congress—to bring that relief, why aren't we in a room negotiating it? Why are we not talking regularly? We did it with the CARES Act immediately. We saw the need, and we did something about it.

Nevadans are already struggling to find work, to afford food, and to stay healthy during this pandemic; plus, they are helping their children learn as schools start to reopen. They cannot effectively do that—none of it—with-

out a safe place to stay, a roof over their head.

Housing is the key to any sense of stability in our chaotic world right now. It is time to end the political games. Americans expect it. They need a roof over their head. That is why it is so vital we pass legislation, not just to help Nevadans but people all over the country pay their rent and utility bills when they cannot safely go to work because of this health pandemic.

We already have legislation that is out there. We know it. The House, months ago, passed the Heroes Act, which addresses this issue. Our colleagues have introduced legislation—Senator BROWN's Emergency Rental Assistance and Rental Market Stabilization Act is out there—that can do the job. We can talk about how we bring this bill forward that helps so many families.

It is not just rental stabilization but to help families keep a roof over their head. Remember, there are a lot of small businesses that are landlords. There are many businesses that are landlords who are shouldering the missed opportunities, and they are struggling. Landlords have bills to pay as well. They have mortgages; they have taxes; they have insurance, staff—let alone their families whom they have to take care of. Without assistance, many of them will go bankrupt or can be forced to sell their properties.

So let's focus on the essentials, the basic need for things like shelter. Let's keep people safe and off the streets. Let's pass Senator BROWN's rental assistance bill. Senator REED has a housing assistance fund bill to help homeowners avoid foreclosure. Senator MENENDEZ has a housing counseling bill. There are so many others. They are in front of us.

We have an opportunity to do the right thing here. The Senate just needs to do its part by making sure those homes are safe and stable, by passing legislation that is going to have a positive impact on so many Americans across this country.

I thank the Presiding Officer for listening. I thank my colleagues for at least having the ability and the will to try to do something through the legislation that was introduced, but now more needs to be done. We can't just introduce legislation. Now is the time to do our jobs as Senators: to come to the floor of the Senate, bring legislation to the floor, and debate it. Let the American public actually see us work and do our jobs that we promised them we would be doing.

It is OK to debate legislation. It is OK to compromise and come forth with good government and good policy that is going to lift all of us up. That is what the Senate should be doing, and that is what I look forward to from my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Iowa.

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday many parts of my home State of Iowa were hit by extreme winds and severe storms—90-mile-an-hour winds, probably along the path along Interstate 80 from the Missouri River to the Mississippi River. Trees are uprooted, roadways are obstructed, crops are severely damaged, grain bins are busted, outbuildings lost, some homes hurt, and over 400,000 households lost power.

Just like any other natural disaster Iowa has experienced, I know that Iowans are going to band together and support each other as we recover from this storm. Senator ERNST and I stand ready to help with any Federal assistance Iowa may need, and I hope that you will not hesitate to contact our respective offices—both in Washington, DC, and in Iowa—if you need us.

For sure, if Governor Reynolds declares this as a disaster area, Senator ERNST and I will be quick to advise the President to follow the recommendations and requests of Governor Reynolds.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2500. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with

accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-5269. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supplement to Commission Guidance Regarding Proxy Voting Responsibilities of Investment Advisors" (Rel. No. IA-5547) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5270. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Trading and Markets, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Covered Broker-Dealer Provisions under Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act" (RIN3064-AE39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5271. A communication from the Secretary, Division of Corporate Finance, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Exemptions from the Proxy Rules for Proxy Voting Advice" (Rel. No. 34-89372) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5272. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5273. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5274. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5275. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Suspension of Community Eligibility" (Docket No. FEMA-2020-0005) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5276. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule; National Flood Insurance Program: Conforming Changes to Reflect the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) and the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA), and Additional Clarifications for Plain Language" (RIN1660-AA95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5277. A communication from the Deputy Division Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of

a rule entitled "Implementation of the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2018" ((WC Docket No. 18-335) (FCC 20-100)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on August 6, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-232. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Nevada urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to provide flexible funding for state, local, and tribal governments to account for anticipated public budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Whereas, The rapid spread of the novel coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, and a national emergency by President Donald J. Trump on March 13, 2020; and

Whereas, State, local and tribal governments have been on the front lines of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, taking decisive and dramatic actions, including ordering the closure of nonessential businesses and issuing stay-at-home orders, in an effort to comply with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and protect the health and welfare of their citizens; and

Whereas, As the result of these momentous actions to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, state, local and tribal governments, many of which were flourishing economically before the outbreak of COVID-19, now face economic and fiscal crises of unprecedented proportions; and

Whereas, The Honorable Steve Sisolak, Governor of the State of Nevada, rapidly took action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in the State of Nevada, issuing a series of Emergency Directives which, among other things, directed Nevadans to stay at home and provided for the closure of schools, casinos and gaming establishments and nonessential businesses; and

Whereas, The unemployment rate in the State of Nevada, which stood at a historically low 3.6 percent in February 2020, increased in just two months to 30.1 percent in April 2020, which is the highest level ever reported by a state in modern history; and

Whereas, The State of Nevada's General Fund now faces an estimated shortfall of approximately \$1.2 billion in Fiscal Year 2020-2021; and

Whereas, The State of Nevada and local and tribal governments in this State will be forced, just as other state, local and tribal governments in similar positions will be forced, to implement deep cuts in services and programs, many of which affect persons most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, unless federal relief is granted; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of Nevada, Jointly, That the members of the 31st Special Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge President Donald J. Trump and the Congress of the United States of America to provide further flexible funding for state, local and tribal governments to assist with anticipated public budget shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this